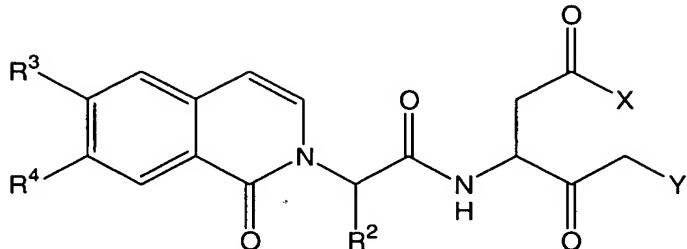


ABSTRACT

[0136] The present invention provides a compound of formula I:



5

wherein:

X is -OR¹ or -N(R⁵)₂,

Y is halo, trifluorophenoxy, or tetrafluorophenoxy;

R¹ is:

10 C₁₋₆ straight chained or branched alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl, wherein the alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl is optionally substituted with optionally substituted aryl, CF₃, Cl, F, OMe, OEt, OCF₃, CN, or NMe₂;

15 C₁₋₆ cycloalkyl, wherein 1-2 carbon atoms in the cycloalkyl is optionally replaced with -O- or -NR⁵-;

R² is C₁₋₆ straight chained or branched alkyl;

R³ is hydrogen, halo, OCF₃, CN, or CF₃;

R⁴ is hydrogen, halo, OCF₃, CN, or CF₃; and

20 each R⁵ is independently H, C₁₋₆ straight chained or branched alkyl, aryl, -O-C₁₋₆ straight chained or branched alkyl, or -O-aryl.

[0137] The present invention also provides pharmaceutical compositions and methods using such compositions for treating a caspase-mediated disease, particularly in the central nervous system.